metro
PHILADELPHIA NO. 1 FREE DAILY IN THE
Wednesday, December 23, 2015 metro.us | t: MetroPhilly | f: MetroPh

FAMILY CHRISTMAS

Ben and Jen keep things awkward for the holidays. 12

Eagles know they must stop DeSean. 22

Remember that house where seven strangers stopped being polite? 17

STREET OF TEARS

A South Philly street is renamed for a woman killed by a hit-and-run driver last Christmas season as a billboard seeking information on the crime is unveiled. 6-7

CHARLES MOSTOLLER

BERGDAHL ARRAIGNED

1 Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, who spent five years as a Taliban prisoner after walking away from his combat outpost in Afghanistan in 2009, did not enter a plea Tuesday at his arraignment on charges spurred by his disappearance. Bergdahl was ordered last week to face a court-martial after being charged earlier this year with desertion and endangering U.S. troops. REUTERS

COLLEGE DORM GUN BAN

2 Public universities in Texas would be breaking a new state law if they ban guns from student dormitories, because such a prohibition would violate the rights of people with licenses to carry concealed handguns, the state's attorney general said. Republican Attorney General Ken Paxton issued his nonbinding legal opinion late Monday after an advisory panel convened by the University of Texas system — one of the nation's largest, with more than 214,000 students — recommended Dec. 10 largely banning guns from dormitories. REUTERS

SELF-DRIVING CARS

3 Google is said to be in talks with Ford Motor Co. to help build the company's autonomous cars, Automotive News reported. The contract manufacturing deal, if finalized, is expected to come during the annual International Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas during the first week of January. REUTERS

RAIN AND WIND

7 Visitors to Philadelphia braved the wind and rain to climb to the top of the Art Museum stairs to take photos with the large Christmas tree and AMOR statue Tuesday.

7 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

MAIN PHOTO BY CHARLES MOSTOLLER, ALL OTHER PHOTOS BY GETTY IMAGES

WEST PHILLY SHOOTING

4 A man was shot to death Monday night while walking his dog, the second dog-walking homicide in West Philadelphia in the past week. The shooting occurred around 7:25 p.m. on the 300 block of Horton Street, ABC reported, adding that investigators said the victim was shot once in the head though it is unclear if he was specifically targeted. JASON NUCKOLLS

JUDGE EAKIN SUSPENDED

5 It seems that tearful, emotional testimony wasn't enough to save state Supreme Court Justice Michael Eakin. The state's Court of Judicial Discipline ruled that Eakin is "suspended from his administrative and judicial duties," effective immediately. The panel found Eakin "participated in a pattern of not only receiving emails which were insensitive and inappropriate toward matters involving gender, race, sexual orientation and ethnicity, but also sending and forwarding a number of such emails." JOSH KRUGER

OREGON WOMAN CHARGED

6 An Oregon woman was charged Tuesday with murder in connection with an incident on the Las Vegas Strip where authorities say she drove into pedestrians on the sidewalk, killing one woman and injuring at least 35 others. Lakeisha Holloway was charged with leaving the scene of a collision. REUTERS

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Nutter reverses on ICE holds

Rescinding his executive order from 2014, outgoing mayor decides to end Philly's status as a sanctuary city.

JENNY DEHUFF
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

People rally against the mayor's decision. JENNY DEHUFF

Following through on what he called a promise he made to President Barack Obama, Mayor Michael Nutter on Tuesday said he would immediately reverse an executive order he made in 2014 to make Philadelphia a "sanctuary city" for illegal immigrants.

Last year, Nutter signed an executive order ending the policy of so-called ICE (Immigrations & Customs Enforcement) holds, wherein the city detains suspected undocumented immigrants and keeps them in custody for federal authorities to takeover.

During a press conference in City Hall on Tuesday and with roughly two weeks left in office, Nutter said he would undo that provision, and instead alert the feds when the city has dangerous criminals in custody.

"If ICE makes a request to the city about a specific individual, with certain conditions, that we have in custody, what they're asking for is to know when the person will be released. That is the sum and substance of the proposed change," said Nutter.

The conditions are these: the person is suspected of terrorism or espionage; has been convicted of felonies such as murder, rape, robbery, unlawful possession of a firearm; is known to be a member of a criminal street gang; if the person being released had prior convictions of any of those serious felonies.

"These are folks who are already in custody," said Nutter.

"We're talking about a very targeted, narrow group of people who are already known to be dangerous."

He also proposed another set of changes, including the creation of a 15-member "immigration policing community advisory board," whose members would be appointed by the next mayor.

But as he's said before, Mayor-Elect Jim Kenney, who will be sworn into office Jan. 4, vowed to go back to the executive order from 2014, calling it a more inclusive approach to dealing with immigrants.

"We feel this is a step backward in community-police relations," Kenney said.

"Any change to the City's ICE noncooperation policy requires buy-in from the community. This executive order change clearly lacks that."

The measure drew outrage from members of the local immigrant community, who showed up to Tuesday's press conference in protest.

"It's three days before Christmas — so what we're going to see is our families get picked up," said Erika Almiron, executive director of Juntos, the South Philly-based community-led organization that works to advocate for immigrants' rights.

"Whatever he says — versus what we know to be real and what we know ICE has done historically — is that our families will be impacted. So, this is not a merry Christmas for immigrant communities in the city of Philadelphia. … It ruins our expectations of this city ever being a welcoming city."

Nutter said the order goes into effect immediately.

Meme plays Trump card

Critics responded to the news that Mayor Michael Nutter has backpedaled and restored Philadelphia's cooperation with federal immigration authorities with a meme reading, "Philly doesn't need a Michael Trump." After someone pasted Nutter's face onto the body of the Republican front-runner, activists quickly began distributing the meme on social media channels.

"We're talking about a very targeted, narrow group of people who are already known to be dangerous."

Nutter

MEDICAL MALPRACTICE

Cancer Diagnosis/Deaths; Surgical/Brain Injuries/Deaths
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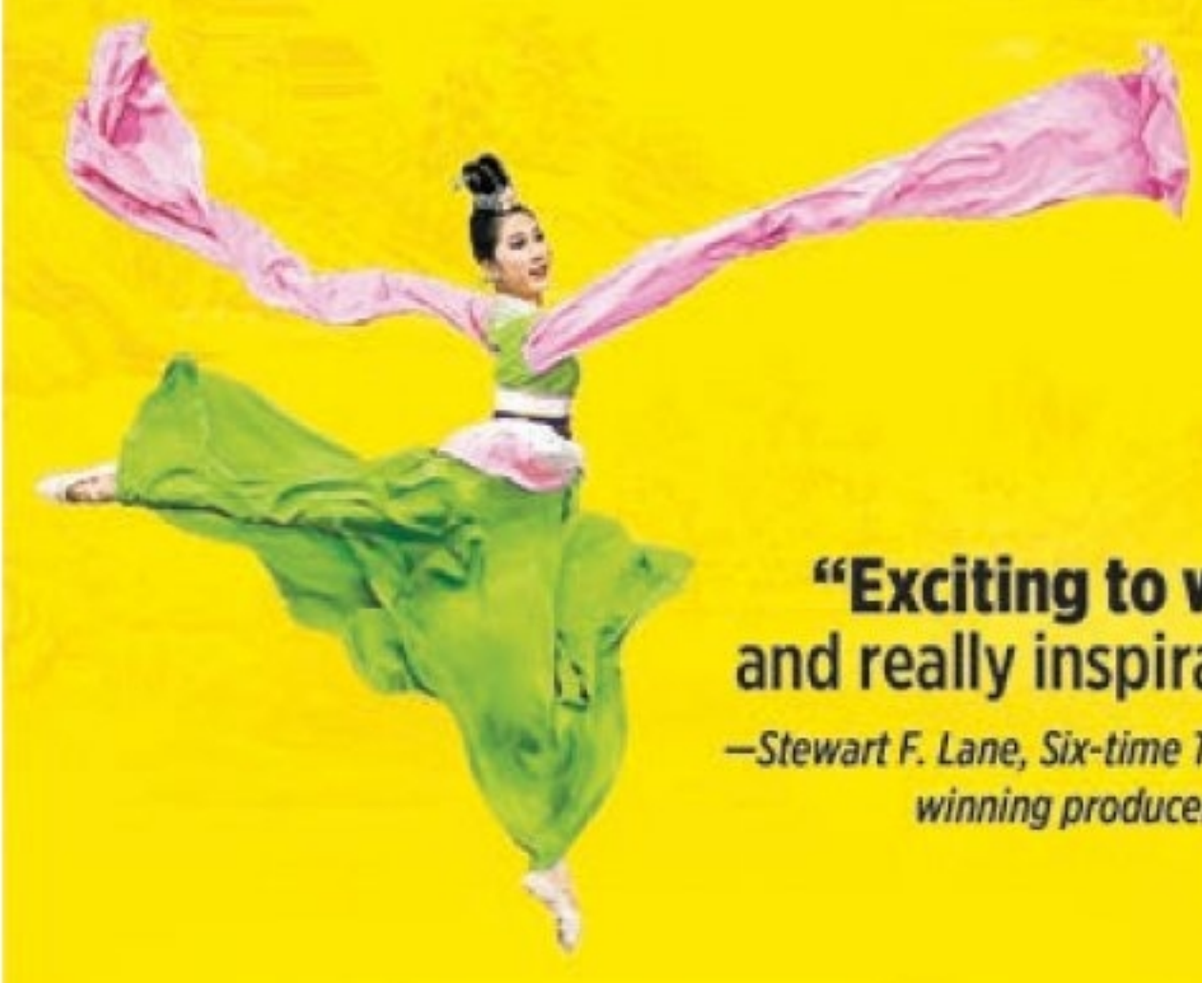

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Heartbroken mom's Christmas wish is

The Wishwall Foundation created a billboard seeking information in the death of Theresa Pozzi and renamed her South Philly street in her honor.

SAM NEWHOUSE
@scnewhouse
sam.newhouse@metro.us

On Wednesday, a billboard will light up the night over a desolate stretch of State Road with the face of a young woman who lost her life there one year ago, pleading for information leading to her killer.

For Anna Pozzi, the mother of Theresa Pozzi, 33, who was killed in a hit-and-run right before Christmas that remains unsolved, the billboard is her prayer for closure. She's hoping someone who saw something the night of the fatal crash will see the sign and help solve the case that, as she put it, ruined her life.

"There's no way you can go through life keeping this inside yourself," she said through her tears inside the South Philly home where Theresa grew up. "There has to be one person they told this to ... and maybe I can start healing a little."

The sign, and an honorary ceremony Tuesday morning to rename the Kimball Street block where the Pozzis live as "Theresa Pozzi Way," were literally the family's wishes they tacked on a wall set up in the Italian Market during Pope Francis' visit to gather the community's hopes and prayers.

Simonetta Lein is a recent transplant from Italy to Philly who set up the "wishwall" and an organization to help the community's wishes come true. She said she spent months to make sure the Pozzis' desire for closure and justice came true.

"I really feel like they're my family now. I'm just putting all my energy to really find this killer," Lein said.

Theresa was killed around 5:20 p.m. on Dec. 23, 2014, while crossing State Road in Northeast Philly. She was walking to a bus stop after visiting a friend in a city jail.

Police recovered surveillance video showing the speeding pickup truck or tow truck that killed Theresa, but have never been able to find the driver.

On Monday, Capt. John Wilczynski of the accident-investigation division renewed his call to the public for assistance in finding Pozzi's killer. A $15,000 reward is offered for information leading to

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to find daughter's hit-and-run killer

The suspect's vehicle is the dark truck in the far lane. PROVIDED

the driver's arrest.

"All we really have is a black pickup or tow truck with front-end damage. We have grainy video," Wilczynski said, saying investigators had no pieces of the car, witnesses or tag number to investigate. "When you come up with nothing, it's very frustrating for investigators."

Pozzi's life has been filled with pain since her daughter's death. Her husband, who was ill and had dementia, died five months after Theresa.

"He could not handle Theresa's death. ... He just couldn't accept it. ... He'd say, 'Theresa will be coming in ... Theresa come home yet?'" she said. "He was heartbroken. He just gave up. He had no will to live after that."

Pozzi visited Theresa's grave for the first time this past weekend. She said that when she opened up the allotment paperwork for Theresa's grave, a piece of paper fell out — a picture of Theresa's body at the morgue.

"That's a hell of a picture to have to remember her by, isn't it?" Pozzi said, breaking out in fresh tears.

Pozzi, who has three surviving children and five grandchildren, wears Theresa's picture in a locket around her neck and tries to stay positive for her family. But it's hard.

"It's taking everything that I have within me to get through this holiday. The spirit's not there," she said. "My grandkids say, 'I know why you don't like Christmas, Grandma. Aunt Te-Te's not here.'"

For now, she clings to the few details that make her daughter's death less horrific. After the crash, her daughter's purse flew through the air and hit the car of a nurse, who pulled over and tried to provide aid. It was too late, but that person was with Theresa when she died, Pozzi said.

"Had they not been there, my daughter would have died alone. At least it ain't too bad," she said, weeping.

Now the renamed street will provide a lasting tribute to Theresa.

Lein, who created the Wishwall Foundation, said this is the first wish the foundation has granted in the U.S. Councilman Mark Squilla helped make it a reality, she said. Lein first found out about Theresa when she saw Carol Pozzi, Theresa's sister, writing on the wishing wall and then running away crying.

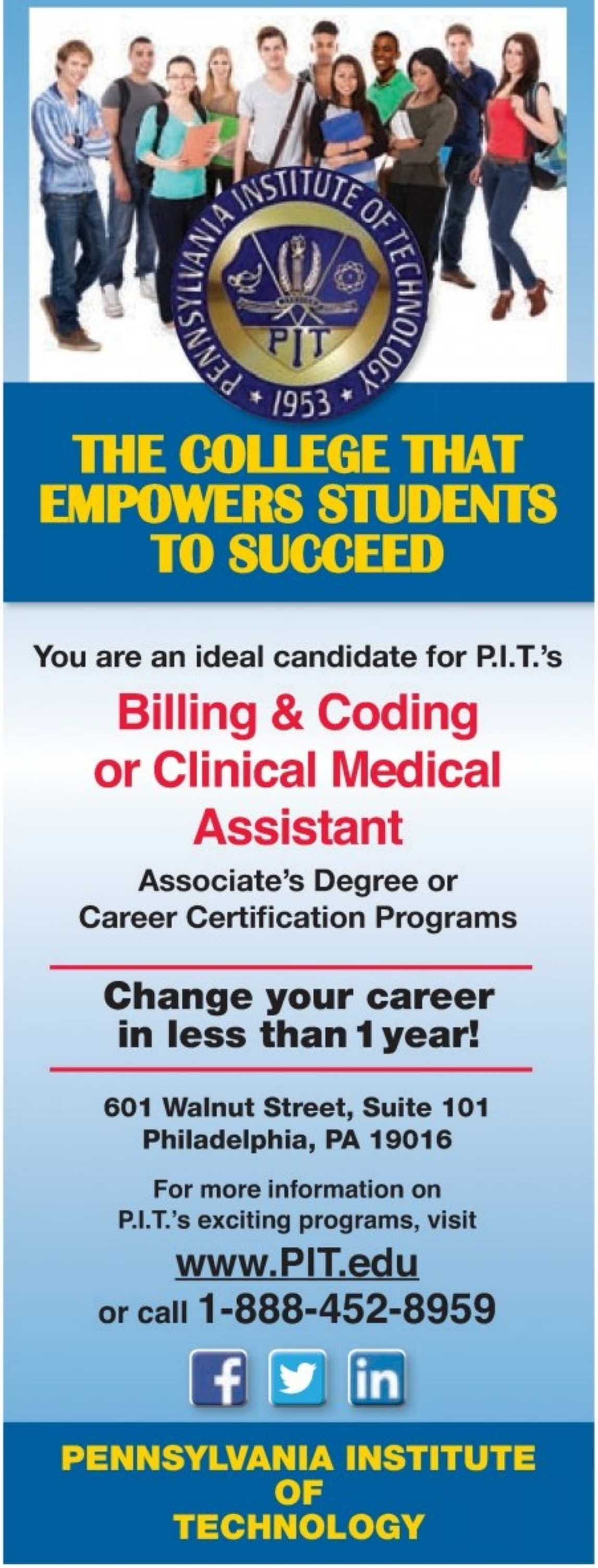
"This is my vision of the American dream. ... Anybody can come to this country and do good," Lein said. "[Anna] says she knows this will not bring back her daughter. But it's like closure. Having the street renamed, it's another kind of closure."

Part of the closure is just knowing it would have made Theresa smile, Pozzi said.

"It's a beautiful, beautiful thought, that every time we turn down Kimball Street we're gonna see Theresa's name on that sign. She was proud of where she came from," Pozzi said. "I can see her saying, 'They got my name up there! My name's in lights!'

"Someone had to see something. I just ask people to think," Pozzi said. "Please sit and think. Maybe, just maybe, something will trigger in your mind."

Councilman Mark Squilla and the Wishmaker Simonette Lein joined Anna Pozzi, mother of hit and run victim Theresa, to rename the 600 block of Kimball Street in South Philadelphia "Theresa Pozzi Way." CHARLES MOSTOLLER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US signs up 8.2M so far for insurance on HealthCare.gov

HealthCare.gov sells subsidized individual insurance in 37 states.

The federal government has signed up 8.2 million people for health insurance through the HealthCare.gov website, including 2.1 million people from the insurers' most sought-after demographic: those under age 35, the top health official said Tuesday.

That compares with the 6.4 million people who signed up or were automatically enrolled at this time last year, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia Burwell said during a conference call.

The enrollment figures come at a time when expectations for 2016 signups have been tempered. The government has said it expects total enrollment of 10 million people via both HealthCare.gov and the state-based exchanges at the end of 2016, about half of what its 2016 estimate had been earlier this year.

Enrollment remains open through the end of January. GETTY IMAGES

Large health insurers have been lukewarm on the market, saying it is a challenge to make money there.

Health insurer UnitedHealth Group Inc. said last month the low enrollment and high medical costs of those covered through the exchanges were causing the company to lose money. It said it would have to review its participation in the two dozen states where it sells plans next year.

The 8.2 million people signed up or automatically re-enrolled in a plan as of Dec. 19 will have coverage effective Jan. 1. Enrollment remains open through the end of January.

On Friday, the government announced that enrollment was running faster than last year and that 6 million people had signed up through Dec. 17. Shares of insurers rose.

The government said it estimated more than 9.1 million people were enrolled for health coverage through HealthCare.gov and the state-based exchanges at the end of 2015.

Of the 9.3 million people who were enrolled at the end of September, about 84 percent received subsidies, the government said. The average subsidy was $271 a month. Enrollment fluctuates as people gain or lose employment-based insurance or have a change in status, such as getting married. REUTERS

Latest Secret Service snafu: stolen badge, gun, radio

A Secret Service agent lost his badge, gun and radio when a bag was stolen from his car, the latest in a series of mishaps for the agency charged with protecting the president and his family.

The agent had parked his vehicle several blocks from the White House just before 4 p.m. on Monday, according to a police report filed with the Metropolitan Police Department.

When he returned to the vehicle, he noticed the back window of the vehicle was open, and a bag containing the items — along with a flash drive and handcuffs — was missing, the report said.

A Secret Service spokesman declined to comment on the incident Tuesday.

Secret Service patrol in front of the White House. GETTY IMAGES

The agency has weathered a lengthy list of problems during the past few years, including a prostitution scandal in Colombia, a drinking and driving incident, and a high-profile security lapse when a man jumped the fence surrounding the complex and ran into the mansion armed with a knife.

Earlier this month, an officer was indicted for allegedly trying to "sext" with someone he thought was a teenager but was actually an undercover officer. REUTERS

Identities revealed for all six troops killed in Afghanistan attack

Vorderbruggen MILITARY PARTNERS AND FAMILIES COALITION

Lemm NYPD HANDOUT

Pentagon data show there have been 10 so-called hostile deaths of U.S. service members in Afghanistan this year.

"Detective Joseph Lemm epitomized the selflessness we can only strive for: putting his country and city first."

New York Police Commissioner Bill Bratton

A female officer in the Air Force, who was one of the first openly gay service members to get married, was identified on Tuesday as being among six U.S. troops killed by a suicide bomber near Bagram air base in Afghanistan.

Air Force Maj. Adrianna Vorderbruggen is the first openly gay woman to be killed in action, the Daily Beast reported, citing a Department of Defense official.

Six American troops, including Vorderbruggen, were killed Monday when a suicide bomber on a motorbike struck their patrol in the deadliest attack on U.S. forces this year.

Facebook postings Tuesday by Vorderbruggen's loved ones mourned her death Monday and sent condolences to her wife, Heather, and son, Jacob. The family lives near Washington, D.C., where the couple was married in June 2012, the year after the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy for gays was repealed.

"We do find comfort in knowing that Heather and Jacob are no longer in the shadows and will be extended the rights and protections due any American military family as they move through this incredibly difficult period in their lives," said the posting from Military Partners and Families Coalition.

Bagram, around 25 miles north of Kabul, is one of the main bases for the remaining 9,800 U.S. troops in Afghanistan, after international troops ended combat operations last year.

The victims included New York City Detective Joseph Lemm, a 15-year veteran of the NYPD who also volunteered in the U.S. Air National Guard and was on his third deployment to war zones.

Local media in Statesboro, Georgia, identified a third victim as serviceman Chester McBride Jr., who was remembered by the principal of Statesboro High School as "a young man of high character with a great smile."

Serviceman Michael Anthony Cinco of Rio Grande Valley, Texas, was identified by local media as another victim.

Facebook postings identified others as Staff Sgts. Peter Taub, whose family lives in the Washington, D.C., area, and Louis Bonacasa from New York.

Wrote Air Force member Jeffrey Behrman: "Joseph Lemm and Louis Bonacasa, I'm glad to have known you men, I'm glad I was able to buy you men a couple pints before you left for Afghanistan."

The Taliban, which claimed responsibility for the strike, remains resilient 14 years after the start of U.S. military engagement in Afghanistan. It has ramped up its attacks this year, inflicting heavier casualties on Afghan security forces.

Just last week, the Pentagon warned of deteriorating security in Afghanistan and assessed the performance of Afghan security forces as "uneven and mixed."

More than 2,300 U.S. troops have died in the Afghan war since the 2001 invasion, but the pace of U.S. deaths has fallen off sharply since the end of formal U.S. combat and a drawdown of American forces.

Pentagon data showed there have been 10 so-called hostile deaths of U.S. service members in Afghanistan this year. There have been 10 non-hostile deaths, largely from aircraft crashes.

REUTERS

How to Sell a Home That Didn't Sell

Philadelphia - If your home has just come off the market and hasn't sold, don't be discouraged. The reason your home did not sell may have nothing to do with your home or the market. In reality, your home may have been one of the more desirable properties for sale. So Why Didn't Your Home Sell?

Last year many of the homes listed for sale never sold at all, and many sellers found that there was a tremendous amount a homeowner needed to be educated on to sell their home for top dollar in the shortest time period. Don't risk making the wrong choices and losing both time and money on your investment. Before you hire a realtor, know the right questions to ask to save you time and money. Industry experts have prepared a free special report called "How to Sell a House that Didn't Sell" which educates you on the issues involved.

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SpaceX Falcon rocket nails safe landing in pivotal space feat

A handout picture made available by SpaceX on Tuesday shows a nine-minute exposure picture of the launch, re-entry and landing burns of SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida. GETTY IMAGES

A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket blasted off from Florida on Monday with a payload of communications satellites before the reusable main-stage booster turned around, soared back to Cape Canaveral and landed safely near its launch pad in a dramatic spaceflight first.

The mission, capped by delivery of all 11 satellites to orbit for launch customer Orbcomm Inc., unfolded in just over 30 minutes and marked a reversal of fortunes for privately owned Space Exploration Technologies, or SpaceX, founded by high-tech entrepreneur Elon Musk.

It was the first flight for his California-based company since a rocket failure in June that destroyed a cargo ship being carried on a resupply mission bound for the International Space Station.

The upgraded, 23-story-tall Falcon 9 rocket lifted off from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station at 8:29 p.m. EST, with the nine-engine suborbital main stage returning 10 minutes later to a landing site about 6 miles south of its launch pad. The upper-stage booster continued its ascent to Earth orbit with its payload.

Musk has said the ability to return his rockets to Earth so they can be refurbished and reflown would slash his company's operational costs in the burgeoning and highly competitive private space launch industry.

SpaceX employees erupted in jubilation as they watched live video footage of the 156-foot-tall white first-stage booster slowly descending upright through a damp, darkened night sky amid a glowing orange ball of light to make a picture-perfect landing.

Rival company Blue Origin, a space startup founded by Amazon Chief Executive Jeff Bezos, nailed a similar return rocket landing test last month. In a seemingly back-handed compliment to SpaceX, Bezos tweeted a message of congratulations to Musk's company, saying: "Welcome to the club!"

"Welcome back, baby"

Musk wrote on Twitter

But the SpaceX feat, which the company had characterized before launch as a "secondary test objective," was achieved during an actual commercial mission.

Minutes after blast-off, the Falcon 9's first-stage rocket separated from its upper-stage booster, which continued on into orbit to release Orbcomm's satellites about 500 miles above the Earth. REUTERS

BRIEF

Wine collector loses appeal of counterfeiting conviction

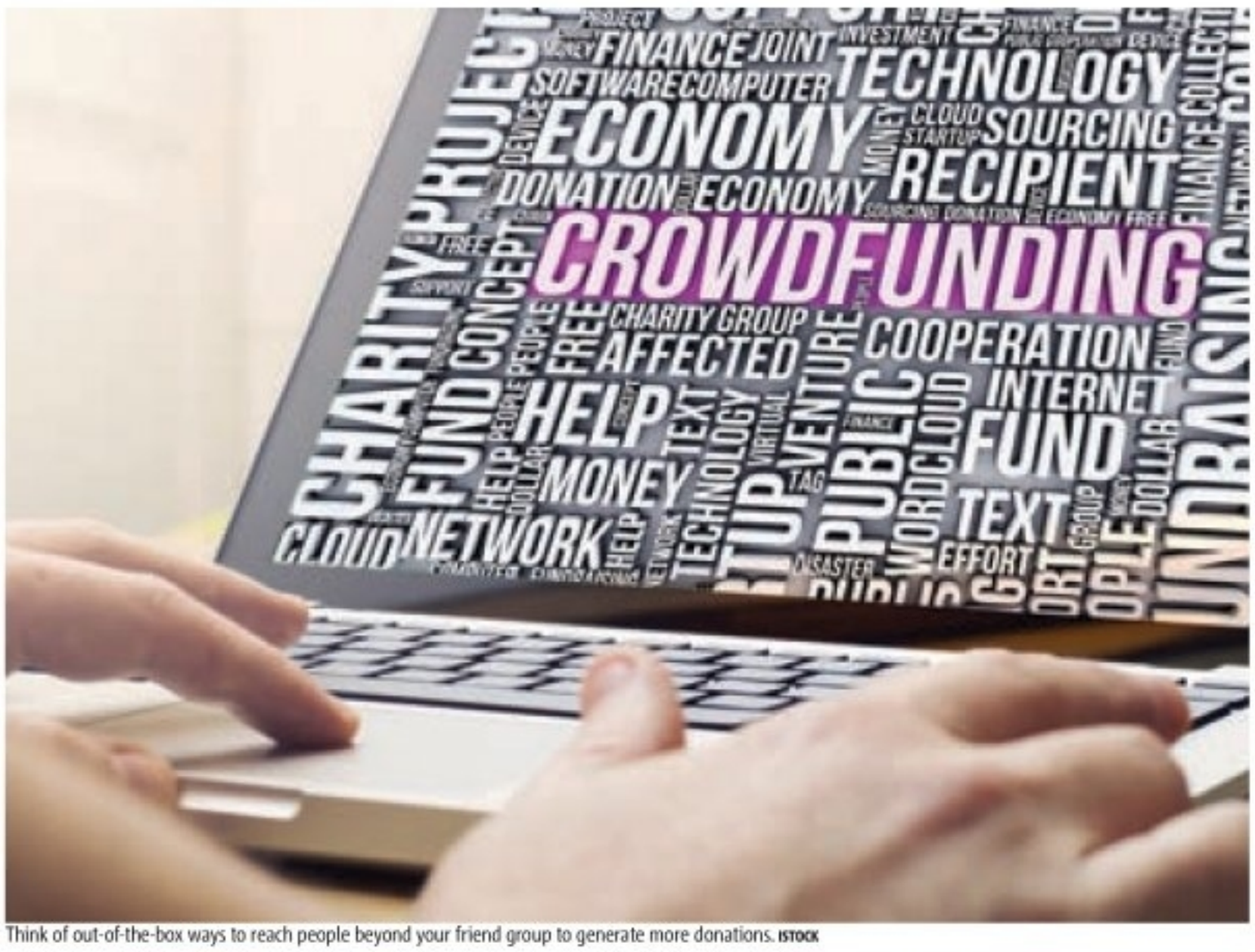
A U.S. appeals court rejected the appeal of a prominent wine dealer who was sentenced to 10 years in prison for selling millions of dollars of rare and expensive counterfeit wine.

The 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New York upheld the 2013 conviction and subsequent sentence of Rudy Kurniawan, 39, an Indonesian-born wine dealer who federal prosecutors called a "kingpin of counterfeit."

On appeal, Kurniawan argued among other things that evidence secured from a warrantless search of his home following his arrest in 2012 should have been suppressed and that his 10-year prison sentence was unreasonable.

Prosecutors said Kurniawan, from 2004 to 2012, engaged in a systematic scheme to defraud collectors and others by selling counterfeit bottles of rare and expensive wine.

REUTERS



Think of out-of-the-box ways to reach people beyond your friend group to generate more donations. ISTOCK

The secret to a successful crowdfunding campaign

Before posting your passion project on Kickstarter or Indiegogo, read these tips.

People tend to take the failure of their passion projects personally. "They think that just because they are passionate about it, everyone should be passionate about it," says Deborah Price, author of the book "Money Magic."

But the odds are actually against many people. According to Kickstarter, which vies with Indiegogo to be the world's largest crowdfunding site, only 36.5 percent of more than 273,000 launched campaigns have reached their target.

And on that site, which has an "all-or-nothing" funding model, if you do not reach your goal, you do not receive any money. Other popular sites, such as GoFundMe and Indiegogo, allow you to keep the money raised, even if you fall short. To avoid the emotional trauma of a failed campaign, here are some pointers:

1 Don't take it personally if friends don't donate

Maybe your friends and family are feeling tapped out and just are not financially able to give right now. Maybe they are inundated with too many crowdfunding campaigns and cannot possibly support them all, lest they go broke.

Global crowdfunding is expected to reach $34.4 billion this year, up from $16.2 billion last year, according to research and advisory firm Massolution. That means requests fly in from all directions.

"Whenever you are tapping friends and family for money, you should remain very unattached," says Price. "Otherwise feelings get hurt, and your resentment or pain or anger gets transferred onto your relationships. A crowdfunding campaign is never worth that."

2 Think about your donors

Success is about getting your audience engaged in your cause. According to a study by Shopify and Toronto consulting firm HiveWire, which analyzed 400,000 completed Kickstarter and Indiegogo campaigns, successful crowdfunds had a number of similar traits. Among them: nine different levels of rewards; eight campaign updates; descriptions that included 600 words and a three-minute video; and a founder with a Facebook friend network of almost 1,000 people.

The rewards do not have to be huge — a custom-made T-shirt, for instance — but they should make donors feel part of a giving community.

3 Keep expectations low

If your campaign does not succeed, just think of it as useful feedback for the next time around. "There is no such thing as failure — it is only R&D," says Price. "Very few people succeed right out of the gate. That doesn't mean it is wrong to have tried."

To that end, seek feedback from your network about what worked and what did not, advises HiveWire CEO Christopher Charlesworth. And get serious about it by keeping a master "campaign spreadsheet," constantly updated with information about donations, key relationships, and media opportunities.

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Jennifer Garner is spending Christmas with Ben Affleck's new face

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The first Christmas post-breakup — especially when there are small children involved — can be a tricky one. So Jennifer Garner and Ben Affleck's newly refreshed looking face are putting up a united front, celebrating the holiday together for the sake of family harmony, according to Us Weekly. "Christmas morning they will all be together to open presents," a source says, adding that the clan will be celebrating at a cabin in Montana. "Ben and Jen want their kids' childhood memories to still be good." But don't take this show of cooperation as anything more than some good, solid co-parenting. "Ben and Jen are together only for the kids, not romantically," the source warns. Ben looks pretty calm about the whole thing.

the word

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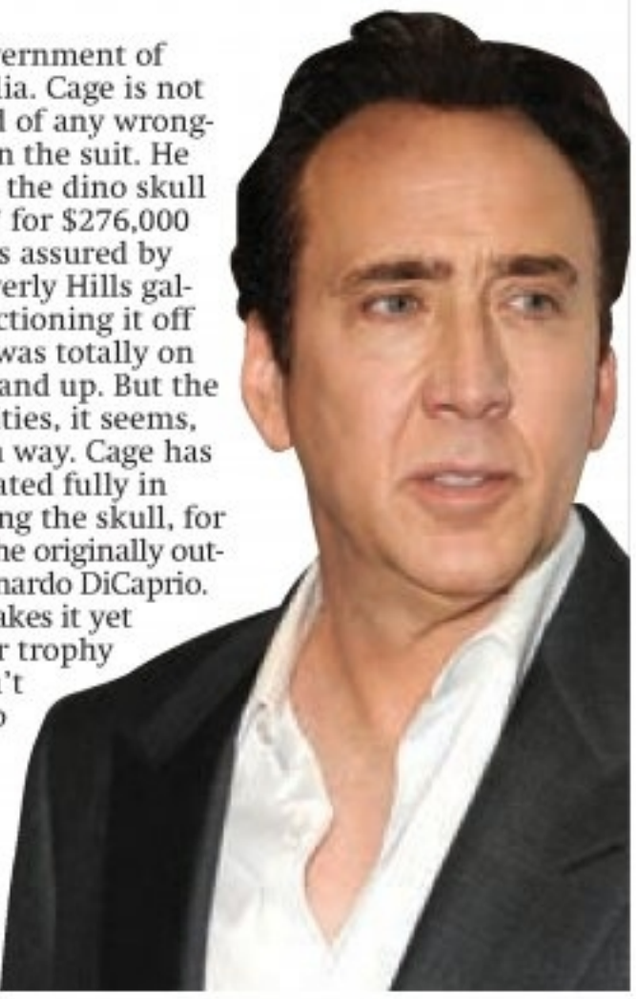
Nic Cage returns his stolen dinosaur head. Wait, what?

I swear this is a real story and not the result of some fever dream or an inspired round of gossip word scramble. Kooky actor Nicolas Cage — famed for his penchant for outlandish purchases — has been forced to return a dinosaur skull because it turns out to be stolen. The U.S. attorney's office in Manhattan filed for forfeiture last week to return the tyrannosaurus bataar skull to the government of Mongolia. Cage is not accused of any wrongdoing in the suit. He bought the dino skull in 2007 for $276,000 and was assured by the Beverly Hills gallery auctioning it off that it was totally on the up and up. But the authorities, it seems, found a way. Cage has cooperated fully in returning the skull, for which he originally outbid Leonardo DiCaprio. That makes it yet another trophy Leo can't seem to get his hands on.



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'Star Wars': A bad lip-reading

The Bad Lip-Reading folks bring in Jack Black, Bill Hader and Maya Rudolph to help out revising the script for the original "Star Wars," and the result is some pretty awesome, nonsensical stoner comedy. As Han Solo says, "Why don't you just move to Nevada, dude?" But I have to say, it kind of feels like cheating when you're doing a bad lip-reading of Darth Vader. He doesn't have lips! But I guess since it's Jack Black, I'll let it slide. This time.

Adele's shade game is a subtle one

Oh, Adele. You're the best. The "Hello" singer opens up to Time magazine about the business practices of her contemporaries, and while she insists she's not throwing shade, she totally is. "The bigger they get, the more horrible they get, and the more unlikable," she says. "And I don't care if you make an amazing album — if I don't like you, I ain't getting your record. I don't want you being played in my house if I think you're a bastard." Still working the whole "this is not shade" stance [only convincing me further that it is] Adele criticizes the practice of over-hyping an album à la Justin Bieber or Taylor Swift. "I'm not throwing shade at anybody," the singer insists, "It doesn't matter how amazing [your album] is. You put seven songs out. I've heard the album. Don't expect me to not lose interest before it's even happened." Tell us how you really feel.

Turns out Jennifer Lawrence is Team Gayle

Sure, Katniss ends up with Peeta instead of Gayle in "The Hunger Games" — oh, sorry, spoiler alert — but that doesn't mean Jennifer Lawrence feels the same way. In fact, she tells Andy Cohen that she's not immune to Liam Hemsworth's charms. "Liam and I grew up together. Liam's real hot," she offered. "What would you have done?" Stop trying to distract me with sexy hypotheticals, Jen. When pressed about whether they've actually locked lips, Lawrence responded, "Yeah. I did. At one point." Man, that must have been some point.

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"Its a beautiful war.."

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Don't worry @IAmSteveHarvey it could of happened to anyone.

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Ok I just rewatched Travolta's entire Adele Dazeem intro. I forgot that it opens with him saying "I love you" to the audience!!! The best.

@JuddApatow
My book Sick In The Head really is a great Christmas present. And it is for charity. And it is thick enough to seem like a good present.

@elonmusk
11 satellites deployed to target orbit and Falcon has landed back at Cape Canaveral. Headed to LZ-1. Welcome back, baby!

@bobsaget
I'm way up I feel blessed.

Fun with economic catastrophe

Hamish Linklater finds the humor in the 2008 housing crisis with "The Big Short."

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Steve Carell and Hamish Linklater battle some fiscal frustrations in "The Big Short." PARAMOUNT PICTURES

Delightfully off-beat indie actor Hamish Linklater lent his skills to the deep bench of talent in Adam McKay's financial meltdown exposé, "The Big Short." But before he could do that, he had to try to understand the housing crisis and the bizarre economic jargon that helped precipitate the 2008 collapse.

You're dealing with some dense subject matter, but the movie keeps a sense of humor about it.
Yeah, yeah. If you want people to eat their veggies, you should probably top it with a little hot fudge and a cherry on top. And Adam McKay is a master sundae-maker, as we all know.

I'm trying to imagine broccoli with chocolate sauce on it.
Oh, it's delicious! You haven't had fondue until you've tried it with cauliflower. [Laughs]

How do you handle improvisation when dealing with characters who have such a distinct vocabulary?
It's tricky. You have to unfortunately do a little research so that you have a couple of terms to throw out there. But ultimately, you're not going to get a huge return on cracking wise about CDOs. It's only funny up to a point, but mostly it's just inside jokes.

Personal experience

What are your own memories of the 2008 crash?
I bought a house around that time, and I was like, "I'm pretty sure I can't afford this." And pretty soon it became apparent that I was right. I didn't have enough money for the house, no matter how much my brokers and everybody told me I did.

What was your own level of understanding of all of this going in?
I definitely went in a virgin and came out a whore as far as my understanding of what was going on. And when you do find out, you do feel totally corrupted, like you have gone into a bordello because it's just awful. It's so shocking. The fact that they come up with these terms like "collateralized debt obligation" to hide that they're basically f—ing you bare — it's a CDO instead of an FYB — so they're good at their boring names over there.

What do you think of audiences coming out of this movie pissed off?
That's good, that's useful. That's a good entertainment experience that galvanizes you. I have to say, almost everyone I know who has seen it, they come out like they've seen "Saw VII" or something like that. They've sweat so much, they feel really paranoid and really upset, and most people jump on the phone with their brokers, if they have them, or call their mothers.

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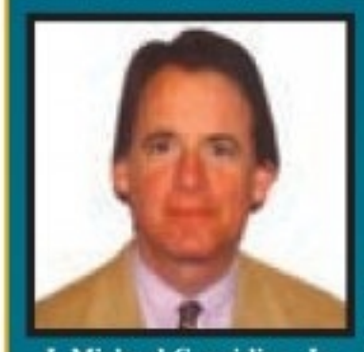
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Edgar Ramirez on how to

The actor loved playing a guy supporting a strong woman in "Joy."

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Edgar Ramirez, far right, plays the ex-husband of Jennifer Lawrence's character (and ex-son-in-law of Robert De Niro) in David O. Russell's "Joy." MERIE WEISMILLER WALLACE

Edgar Ramirez doesn't do every movie that comes along. "I choose them very carefully, so I can be happy," the actor tells us. The 38-year-old Venezuelan actor — of "Domino," "Zero Dark Thirty" and the epic miniseries "Carlos" — is in two movies out on Christmas Day: the remake of "Point Break" and David O. Russell's "Joy." We're talking to him about "Joy," in which he plays Tony, the ex-husband of Jennifer Lawrence's single mom, who's stayed in her life — in fact, in her basement, which he shares with her grouchy father (Robert De Niro) — post-divorce and who winds up helping her as she invents and sells the Miracle Mop.

You've often spoken of needing something that connects to you deeply to take on a project. What was it with "Joy"?

It was the possibility of playing such a romantic character who is, at the same time, so passionate and so flawed. And it was about making a film about a strong woman, which we don't get to see very often in society, let alone in cinema. With no hesitation or reservation or shame or fear of compromising his manhood or masculinity, this guy is ready and willing to stand by and support and celebrate the strength of the woman he loves.

That requires a lot of courage in this macho-

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be a male feminist

normative society — to feel completely comfortable standing behind a strong woman. I'm a feminist myself, and I think real feminism has nothing to do with hating men. It's all about equality. Equality benefits each one of us. Even men benefit from feminism. It releases us from a lot of the stigmas that are imposed on us by macho culture.

It's also unusual to see a film in which exes manage to stay friends. To stay by someone after a breakup requires a very deep kind of love.

That was the other aspect for me: They're no longer a romantic couple; they're friends. The movie suggests that unconditional love can last forever. It just takes different forms. That gives us a lot of hope, because if the romantic part of a relationship doesn't work, it doesn't mean the relationship has to end.

True love can take on different forms. Heartbreak is so hard and divorce is so hard, so it's beautiful that he was able to stay in her life. It's about putting everything you have at the services of the person you love, so that person can become the best version of themselves. I can't recall another contemporary film that explores a relationship between and ex-wife and an ex-husband in this manner.

A little chaos

David O. Russell is famous for films that boast a kind of contained chaos. What is that like as an actor, to be in the middle of that?

It felt like chaos to us, but in his head everything makes complete sense. That's part of his genius. He doesn't think linearly. It's incredible the amount of information he can process. Everything ends up making sense. He asks you to trust him, and he trusts you. It's a dance. It's like everything's floating around him and he grabs whatever he needs at a specific moment.

That is a beautiful process to be a part of. But it also makes you feel relaxed, that you don't need to be in your head. You're just open. It's like life itself. When you're walking down the street you're not thinking about walking. You're just doing it. It's beautiful when a director gives you the opportunity to be outside of your head.

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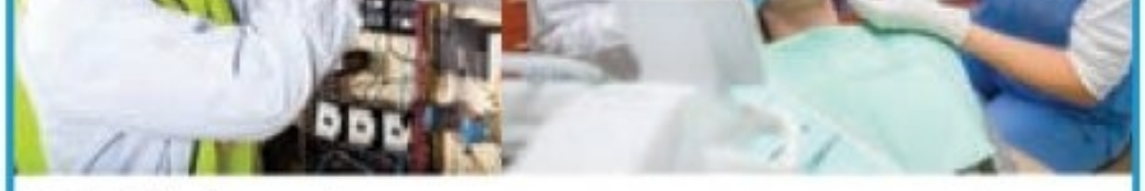
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#BlackLivesMatter, Trayvon Martin and 'Deadly Injustice'

A new book explores how race influences how we think about criminality — and what happens inside the courtroom.

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Nationwide protests are now commonly organized through social media. GETTY IMAGES

Right now, the country is engaged in a passionate debate about race and the criminal justice system, a topic that in the past few years has dominated headlines — and there's no sign of that changing. A book by criminology scholars, "Deadly Injustice," uses statistics and real court cases to show exactly what Americans' views on race are, and how they influence the decisions made within our legal system. We talked to one of the authors, George Mason University criminology, law and society professor Devon Johnson to dig a little deeper.

The bulk of the book focuses on Trayvon Martin. What was it about that case that embodied everything you wanted to talk about?

We started developing ideas for the book right after the acquittal of George Zimmerman. The case brought a lot of issues together, such as the public perception of who is suspicious and who is a criminal, police profiling and the court system.

How did social media play a role?

It had a very significant impact on what happened with the case. We know these types of situations have happened many times in the past, but they hadn't garnered this level of national attention. Trayvon's parents filed an online petition to bring attention to the case and put pressure on the prosecutor's office. It was a turning point in that way.

Millennials and young people really paid close attention to this case, largely because of social media.

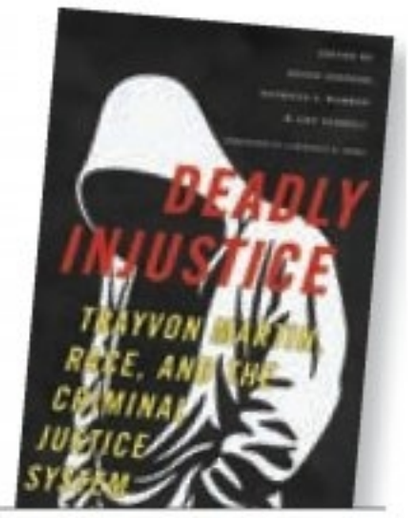
Yes. And they can relate to it because [Travyon] was a young guy and these experiences, particularly for young black men, are experiences that they have every day. … We saw national-level protests that were organized through social media.

Police brutality against blacks and Latinos now regularly make the news. What do you think this will mean for society long-term?

Right now we're seeing a continuation of historical trends and patterns. This is not anything new. It's getting significant attention right now, particularly because we have video evidence in some cases, which we did not have before. People of color tend to distrust the criminal justice system more than white folks, but I think for everyone, this is a time where people are really questioning the legitimacy of the criminal justice system.

The book shows that people perceive neighborhoods with black people as more dangerous, and it's something people do automatically, not consciously. Do you think this is something that can be changed?

These are entrenched problems and patterns with a historical legacy. I do believe more dialogue and increased contact can address some parts of this epidemic, but it isn't going to happen overnight, and it's going to take a sustained effort.



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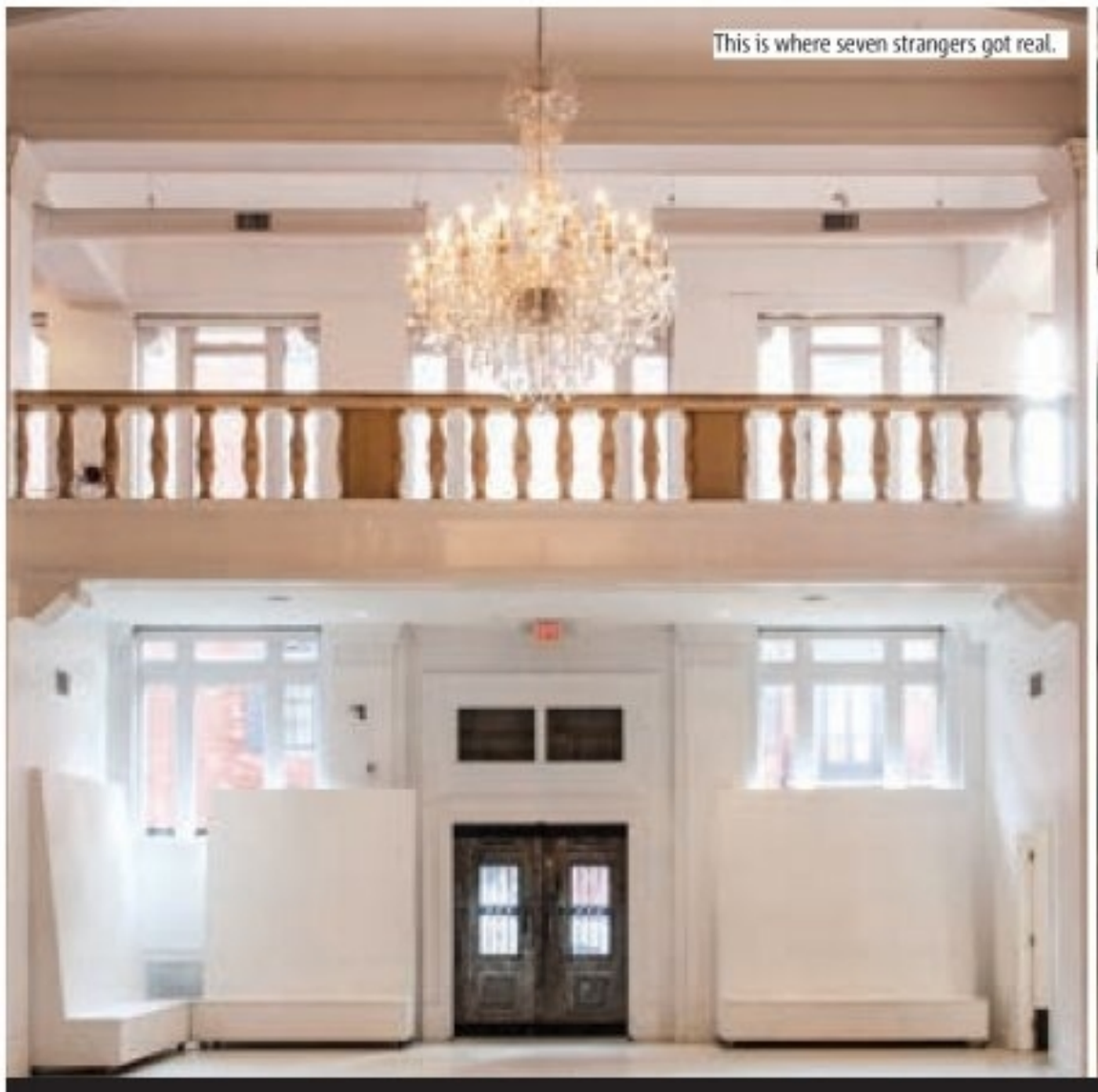

This is where seven strangers got real.

Chris Aker's company, Linode, purchased the former "Real World" house. ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF LINODE

home

LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE

Whatever happened to the 'Real World: Philadelphia' house?

The Old City building with a storied history is getting yet another new identity.

ALLIE VOLPE
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You know how the story goes: Seven strangers move into a house, they stop being polite — and start getting real. Over a decade has passed since MTV's "Real World" brought a bit of reality TV-fueled dysfunction to the City of Brotherly Love, but a part of the show's legacy and saga continues even now.

The 15,000-square-foot, three-story space at Third and Arch streets in Old City that housed the "Real World" roommates in 2004 has been purchased by South Jersey-based cloud hosting company Linode for $5 million. The tech firm plans to use the former bank as its Philadelphia office, to go along with its New Jersey headquarters and support center, Linode spokesman Keith Craig says. It'll be about a 12-month renovation and restoration process until the company moves in.

Linode founder Christopher Aker was into the idea of acquiring a building with history, Craig says — a history that extends beyond the pop culture lifespan of "Real World."

"You're looking at a 112-year-old building, designed by a famed architect," he says. "The fact that it was originally the Union Bank and then became the Corn Exchange Bank, and then obviously it was the MTV 'Real World' setting 10 years ago — Chris is more enthused about returning it to that original Union Bank, Corn Exchange Bank."

Yes, it's hard to believe, but the structure did serve a purpose other than housing camera-ready strangers.

There's a reason it's called Old City

The neoclassical building went up in 1902 as the Union Bank of Philadelphia and was designed by local architect John T. Brugger. It then became Girard Corn Exchange National Bank remained that until 1970, and the facade still bears the name. Seven years later, the Philadelphia Historical Commission listed the building on the Register of Historic Places.

Come 1974, the bank became the home for the Greater Philadelphia chapter of Seamen's Church Institute, a non-profit agency dedicated to the faith and well-being of shipmen passing through the area.

Yaron Properties got hold of the building in 2003 for $2.2 million and transformed it into the colorful, hip living oasis ready for its 15 minutes of fame. Filming lasted from April through August 2004. After that, the space was primarily used for weddings and other events under the name TRUST.

Changing hands

Last summer, the property went back on the market, and after about a year of negotiations, Aker and Linode were able to secure the Union Bank/Corn Exchange National Bank/Seamen's Church Institute/"Real World" house.

That's why Aker is focused on preserving the history of the space. Not so much because of "The Real World," but because of real life.

"It's kind of neat that MTV's 'Real World' was there," Craig says, noting the enthusiasm of the company's millennial employees. "But Chris is interested in returning it to its historic splendor. His excitement is being in an old building, being in a historic building, being in Old City and contributing to North Third Street."

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Try eucalyptus in your arrangements for a wintry feel, suggests Hardesty.

The best flowers for your holiday party

The Natalia bouquet, available on UrbanStems.com, features magnolia leaves.

UrbanStems shares the secrets to creating festive floral arrangements.

AMANDA VALENTOVIC
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The holidays aren't complete without decorations, and flowers could be the finishing touch you're looking for this winter. Cameron Hardesty, director of products at UrbanStems, an affordable flower-delivery service in New York City that hand delivers seasonal bouquets via bicycle, tells us which stems will challenge the mighty Christmas tree in having the biggest wow factor at your holiday party this year.

Put a twist on a classic holiday theme

While the standard holiday plants amaryllis and poinsettias will always work for your holiday gathering, don't be afraid of trying something different. "Amaryllis can be expensive, and you're never sure when they'll bloom," warns Hardesty. She suggests going with pine or spruce bouquets to make your table setting stand out. Hardesty also likes different takes on holiday colors: She uses calla lilies and silver dollar eucalyptus for a wintery effect.

Flower power

If traditional isn't really your style, go wild with flowers. "Fresh garlands are normally on banisters, but you can use them as table runners," says Hardesty. "It looks festive and really rustic for Christmas." She also suggests sticking some succulents in the garland for a trendier piece. Hardesty also likes kissing balls, which are dense balls of florals used as decor. "You can hang them from the ceiling or even off the backs of chairs at the table," she says.

Stick with seasonal

Hardesty says to use anything seasonal in your floral arrangements. "A plant that seems like it's made for this time of the year is magnolia. The leaves have an interesting texture," she says. "One side is red and one side is green, so they're great for Christmas." To get that floral scent, Hardesty recommends "buying them at a farmer's market, because they're cheaper and they're always fresh."

Succulents update traditional arrangements. ISTOCK

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Brown wanted D'Antoni on staff

Brett Brown still holds the keys to the Sixers and is not worried about offensive mastermind Mike D'Antoni stepping on his toes.

ANDY JASNER
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Help is on the way.

At some point during the 76ers' West Coast road trip, Mike D'Antoni will officially join the team as the associate head coach.

A veteran coach who has achieved such incredible success in the NBA will be extremely valuable to the young Sixers and coach Brett Brown.

Soon after the Sixers named 76-year-old Jerry Colangelo as chairman of basketball operations, a conversation took place between the newest hire and Brown. In less than a day, the talk brought in D'Antoni.

"The first thing that [Colangelo] said to me is, 'How can I help you?' And we talked about everything, the staff being included, and we started sharing names," Brown said. "He mentioned the name Mike D'Antoni, and I said, 'Do you think he would do it?' Because that's a hell of a name. Less than 24 hours later, he came and said, 'Mike is yours.'"

D'Antoni is widely respected for his offensive creativity, though it will be a major challenge with the struggling Sixers.

D'Antoni and Brown spent a couple of days together last week in preparation for what lies ahead.

"He was with me for the past two days in an office with my two bench assistants, trying to connect the dots with a Phoenix Suns mentality and the San Antonio Spurs history I have," Brown said. "It's about integrating post players and random pick-and-rolls and spacing. I can't tell you how much I enjoy talking to somebody of that experience. … I think we're all going to benefit. Truly, I studied Mike for a long time and to be able to now sit next to him and say, 'What do you think?' and 'Let's go to a white board" is just great."

30
THE SIXERS RANK DEAD LAST IN THE ENTIRE NBA IN POINTS PER GAME WITH AN ANEMIC 91.2.

D'Antoni, 64, won 455 games in 12 seasons as a head coach with the Denver Nuggets, Suns, New York Knicks and Los Angeles Lakers. When D'Antoni guided the Suns, Colangelo was the team's owner, so there's an obvious link.

Brown joked that when he reached out to D'Antoni he heard a link of a different sort — on the golf course. Basketball has always been a huge part of D'Antoni's life. It will be once again very soon.

"Let's face it, he's one of the most innovative offensive minds that we've had in recent times," Brown said.

Mike D'Antoni is here to help fix the 76ers' futility on offense. GETTY IMAGES

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NFL power rankings | by Luke Miller

No. 1

Panthers (14-0)

The Panthers narrowly avoided losing this week as the Giants staged a 28-point comeback after falling behind, 35-7. That's no reason to take them out of the top spot, however. Cam Newton has thrown five TD passes three times in his last five games.

No. 2

Cardinals (12-2)

David Johnson dragged Eagles all over the field on his way to 187 yards rushing on Sunday night. Despite injuries to Andre Ellington and Chris Johnson, the Arizona backfield is looking better than ever. They take on Green Bay at home this weekend and if they win, they'll have clinched a bye.

No. 3

Patriots (12-2)

The Pats can clinch home field for the AFC playoffs with a win Sunday at the Jets. The latest weapon in Bill Belichick's toolshed was fullback Joey Iosefa, who carried the ball 14 times Sunday. The Pats let the Titans game get a little close, but if we won't punish the Panthers, we won't punish the Pats.

No. 4

Seahawks (9-5)

The Seahawks, 7-1 in their last eight games, kept rolling thanks to the continued presence of touchdown monster Doug Baldwin, who has caught 10 in his last four games. Even more promising is Christine Michael's ability to perform in the run game (84 yards) after Thomas Rawls was lost for the year.

No. 5

Packers (10-4)

The Packers found a middle ground between tearing it up in the run game and being abysmal with 103 yards on 28 carries for the team this past Sunday. They'll need more of that sweet mediocrity to stay balanced against the most balanced team in football, the Cards, this Sunday.

No. 6

Steelers (9-5)

On a week where the other contender for best receiver in football left us talking about everything but his play, Antonio Brown's play on the field (against Denver's usually dominant secondary) showed us that there are no other contenders. Pittsburgh is at Baltimore this weekend.

No. 7

Chiefs (9-5)

The Chiefs are breathing down the Broncos' necks as the season concludes. If the teams end the season tied at 11-5, the Chiefs will win the tie-breaker based on division record, after the teams split their head-to-head matchups. The KC offense churned out just 277 yards in an easy win over the Ravens last week.

No. 8

Bengals (11-3)

Cincy locked down a playoff spot, and a win over Denver this Monday would lock down the division and a first round bye. A.J. McCarron didn't turn the ball over against the 49ers last Sunday, which is about all you can ask of A.J. McCarron. But the run game didn't help him much in the win.

No. 9

Broncos (10-4)

The Broncos, once 7-0 and able to look comfortably back at a 2-5 Chiefs team, are suddenly in a precarious spot. After back-to-back losses, the Broncos desperately need to right the ship against Cincy — both if they want to finish with a first round bye over the Bengals and hold onto the division.

No. 10

Vikings (9-5)

Minnesota responded to back-to-back losses brilliantly and Teddy Bridgewater played his best game of the season. The defense, which has been banged up, managed to grab two turnovers and the offense turned them into 14 points. The Vikes will face an equally desperate Giants team Sunday.

No. 16

Eagles (6-8)

The Eagles are a team without an identity. What are the Eagles good at? It was supposed to be their front seven and stopping the run, but that has completely fallen apart without a third round rookie, Jordan Hicks, who was never supposed to factor in this season anyway.

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Eagles focus on stopping Jackson

Birds look to ruin another homecoming when Jackson returns to the Linc for a second time as a Redskin on Saturday.

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DeSean Jackson is a popular name in Philadelphia. He was a popular player during his time as an Eagle, and with good reason.

The wideout was one of the most explosive and memorable Eagles of all time, and as a Redskin he is just as deadly, having scored a touchdown in four of his last five games.

For a vulnerable Philly secondary that has been susceptible to big-time wide receivers of late, they can't afford to get burned.

"[We need to] make sure he doesn't blow the top off," safety Ed Reynolds said. "He is one of the fastest guys in this league, so we have to make sure we keep him in front of us."

Some Eagles players know him well, like Malcolm Jenkins who played alongside Jackson in 2013.

"It is something you have to pay attention to as a defense," Jenkins said. "Though he is not their No. 1 target, every time he is targeted you can be exposed. He can change a game quicker than any of their threats.

"Any time he stretches the field it's to be respected."

"Regardless of who we put out there, we think we can match up against anybody."

Malcolm Jenkins, on whether the Eagles can defend DeSean Jackson with their injured secondary

Reynolds has never gone against Jackson, but knows him by reputation.

"I know Sammy Watkins is fast, John Brown is fast, I have been in those situations with top NFL speed out there," Reynolds said. "I am not taking it any different — just playing it how I know how to play it and keep this defense safe."

Jackson may not be the Redskins' biggest threat through the air. In recent weeks, tight end Jordan Reed has established himself among the best in the NFL and could pose a tough matchup for the Eagles and their hurting secondary (Byron Maxwell and Eric Rowe were both hurt in Sunday's 40-17 loss to the Cardinals).

"He's a really good tight end and he's gotten better," Jenkins said of Reed, who has 778 yards and nine touchdowns in 2015. "He is a savvy route runner, has good breaks. ... You have to be able to disrupt his timing. He's one of those guys who can get open late in a down if the quarterback has time to throw. He's a tough matchup."

DeSean Jackson will be back in town Saturday. GETTY IMAGES

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Eagles' locker room tech-savvy

When you think about it, it kind of makes sense.

The Eagles locker room is filled with a bunch of rich 20-somethings, each with at least some college education.

"These guys, they are grown men, but they are kids, too," Mark Sanchez said. "They like having fun, relaxing, taking a load off. It's a good place for gadgets."

Look left and you might see Malcolm Jenkins (or his hovering disciples) skidding by on a hoverboard. Look right and you'll see a player playing a game on his phone or using one of the dozens of hand-held devices on the market this holiday season.

In fact, ask an Eagles player what his favorite holiday gift is, and he'll give you a tech-savvy answer.

"Best gift I ever got, I would have to say, at the time, it was an iPad," Brandon Graham said, thinking back a few Christmases. "I am really big with technology and stuff. When the first iPad came out, that was my best."

The Eagles are proud to be one of the more technologically inclined NFL franchises. GETTY IMAGES

"I got a drone this year from my agent," Sanchez said, as he conveniently reached for a big glossy box tucked into his locker. "I am kind of excited about this."

Perhaps Chip Kelly, who has used technology as much as any head coach in the NFL, is leading the Eagles in this facet as well.

Kelly relies heavily on a sports-science regimen to monitor his players' vital signs before and after practices and uses tech as much as he can as a means for bettering his team.

In 2014, the Eagles franchise invested more than $1 million into Kelly's sports science philosophy. For Kelly it's less about being cool and more about keeping his players healthy.

"We don't do that just for the sake of doing it," Kelly told reporters a few seasons ago. "We do that because we think there's a benefit to it. Obviously, the big issues you look at are the soft-tissue injures, because those are preventable." EVAN MACY

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metro.us/games

Hexagon Word

Clues:

1. Sell overseas
2. Citrus fruit
3. Merriest
4. Purple skin mark
5. Edible kernel
6. Savage

Use the clues to fill in the spaces in the numbered hexagons. Each answer runs clockwise but can start anywhere in the shape. Where hexagons touch, they have the same letter. We've given you the first answer. The letters in the middle hexagon reveal a mystery keyword.

Mix 'n' Match

VIC	ICI	DER
ASS	INE	EST
BAR	AUL	NED
COM	IGA	SLY
DEA	MAN	TED
HOM	POO	TOR
MUT	DLI	DAL
NAV	BAR	ERS
HAR	IOU	IAN

© Lovatts Puzzles

Clues:

1. Murderous
2. Rebellious crew members
3. Roughed up
4. Course pitcher
5. Naval rank below captain
6. Speared, as a whale
7. Mostly poisonous
8. Savagely

Take a set of letters from each column and combine them to form a nine-letter answer to each clue. Once finished, the remaining sets of letters will spell out another nine-letter word. This is your answer.

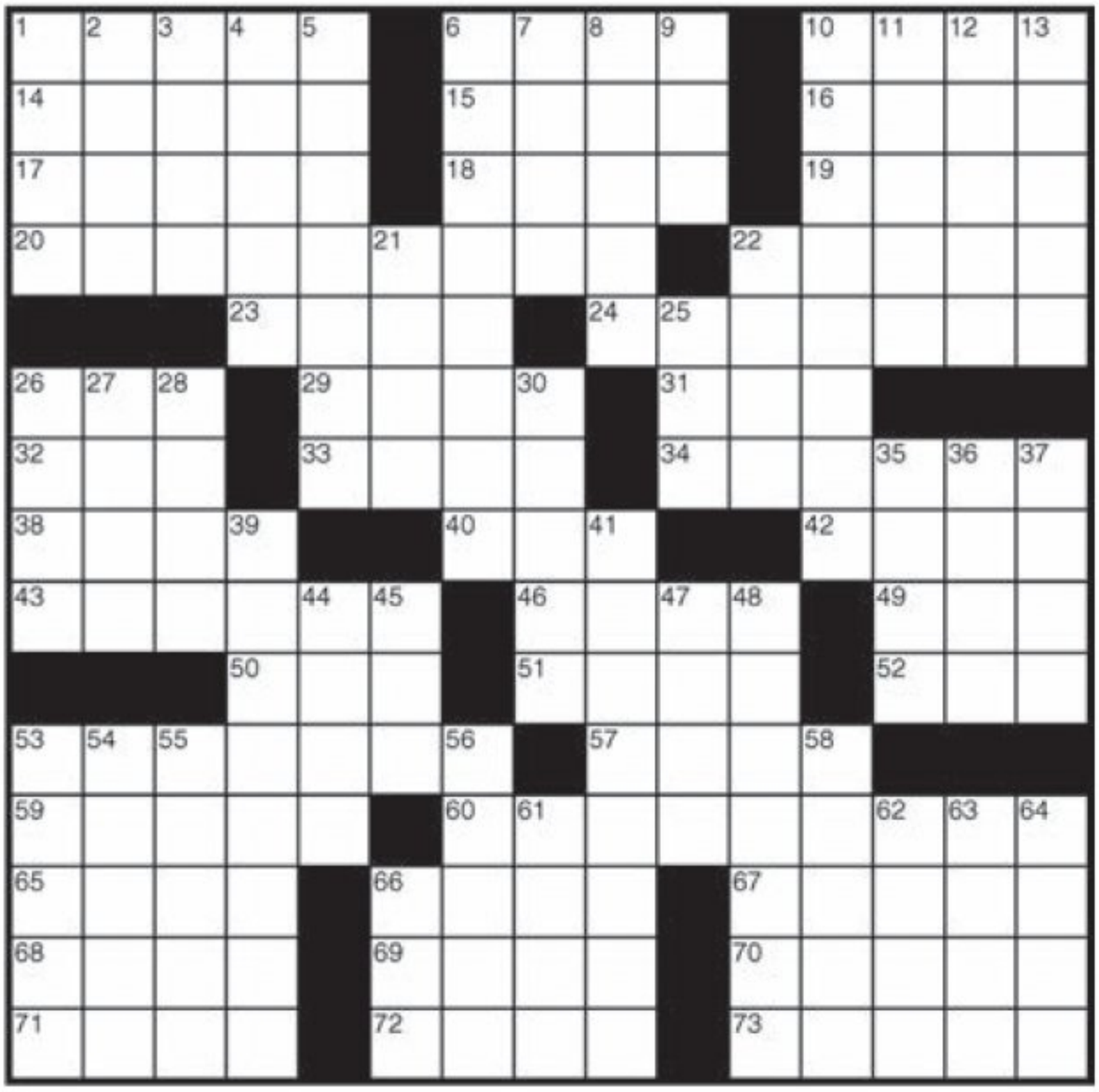
metro.us/crossword

Across

1 Old Cannes cash
6 Between Tex. and Kans.
10 Casanova type
14 High-tech beam
15 Lurch
16 Endangered trees
17 Biscotto flavoring
18 Without the ice
19 Kind of belt
20 Prepares for the present moment? (2 wds.)
22 Shocking
23 Yul's film realm
24 Copy
26 Sea dog
29 No, to Ivan
31 Quit stalling
32 Sourdough's strike
33 It may be spliced
34 Parched feeling
38 Turf warriors
40 Just a little
42 Ms. Foch
43 First in line
46 Not right
49 Young wolf
50 Decimal base
51 Hurl forth
52 Tummy muscles
53 Stuffy scholars
57 Thailand neighbor
59 Big occasion
60 Reality (2 wds.)
65 Bagpiper's wear
66 Man-goat deity
67 Energy
68 He gave us a lift
69 Bull-market result
70 Elk cousin
71 No sweat!
72 Signs a contract
73 — salts

Down

1 Banner
2 Rajah's spouse
3 Yeah, right! (2 wds.)
4 Twig-and-mud homes
5 Manning
6 Angel, perhaps
7 Hang on to
8 Car-dealer's option
9 Mi. above sea level
10 Lead to (2 wds.)
11 Prince Val's wife
12 Target rival
13 Helena rival
21 Martha of dental ads
22 Ow!
25 Get tangled
26 Disco dancer (hyph.)
27 Ph.D. exam
28 Relax, as rules
30 Wild ducks
35 Costa —
36 Cold shoulder
37 Boxtop pieces
39 Fidget (2 wds.)
41 Ends a flight
44 On its way
45 Explosive letters
47 Tour de force
48 Date
53 Black tea
54 Musical set in Argentina
55 Reuben purveyors
56 Beau
58 Pounce on prey
61 Peanut shell
62 RN employers
63 Lhasa —
64 The people over there
66 Wk. day



FOR THE ANSWERS TO TODAY'S PUZZLES, **metro.us/games**

games

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries Tension is mounting, and tempers are short. Be careful how you approach subjects that affect loved ones. A relationship may be touch-and-go.

Taurus Get in the spirit of the season. Don't fret if you haven't completed your to-do list. Your time and attention will bring the highest rewards.

Gemini You need to slow down. Take a deep breath and refuse to make last-minute decisions based on worries about what others want or expect.

Cancer Offering your help to those less fortunate will be eye-opening and will give you a better sense of what life is all about.

Leo Make sure your motives are clear if you lend a helping hand to someone in need. You can't take on the weight of the world.

Virgo You'll want to please everyone, and with a little effort you can. Simple but thoughtful offerings are favored and will make a difference.

Libra Expect the unpredictable. Nothing will go according to plan. Don't get angry, just go with the flow and do your best to get things done on time.

Scorpio Be creative about how you help others. What you do to improve your family dynamic will have more impact than a monetary gesture.

Sagittarius You'll be moving fast and ready to take on challenges. Your ability to maneuver through crowds will help you finish what you start.

Capricorn Socializing will lead to false pretenses. Promises made will not be honored. You are best off relying on your own efforts.

Aquarius Getting involved in activities that are geared toward relatives or taking part in festivities in your community will bring you joy.

Pisces You may want to overdo it and spend more than you should, but it will be the little things you do that will actually make the difference. **EUGENIA LAST**

metro.us/sudoku

easy

	2	7					4	9
		3	9		7			
1				5			8	
9			4		5			
		5	1	3	6	7		
			8		2			1
	5			1				6
			3		9	4		
7	4					9	1	

hard

3	7						6	
		6	8	5			4	
		8		7	6			1
4	5				9	1		
				3				
		3	4				8	5
5			7	2		8		
	1			6	8	9		
	6						2	7

metro.us/truthfacts

BY WULFF & MORGENTHALER

metro.us/quiz

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